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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a yarn suitable for tufting, said process comprising the steps of:
- a. forming a bundle consisting essentially of a first base fiber, said first base fiber being selected from the group consisting of polyamides, nylon-6, nylon-6,6, polyesters, polyolefins, cotton and wool;
 - b. ring spinning or wrap spinning the bundle of fiber with a second fiber comprising a heat-activated binder material having a melting point range of ~~105° to 190°C~~ substantially below that of the base fiber to form a yarn, wherein said heat activated binder material has a melting point range of 105° to 190°C under ambient conditions;
 - c. twisting two or more of the yarns to form a plied yarn comprising 0.1 to 12 weight percent of the binder material;
 - d. heating the plied yarn sufficiently to melt the binder material ; followed by
 - e. cooling the plied yarn to solidify the binder material.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said heating step occurs during twist setting of the plied yarn.
3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the bundle of fiber is formed by spinning staple fiber.
- 4.-13. (Withdrawn)
14. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the base fiber is nylon-6 having melt point range of 215 to 225°C.
15. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the bundle consisting essentially of a first base fiber is selected from the group consisting of a sliver and a bundle of continuous filaments.